

Fresno High - Tower District - West of 99 - West Shaw - Quigley- Lions

# District 1 News!

2021 - FALL EDITION



*Follow us on social media for  
more District 1 updates!*

Please feel free to contact our office with questions or concerns  
at **(559) 621-7817** or **District1@fresno.gov**.



@Esmeralda\_Soria



Councilmember  
Esmeralda Soria



esmeraldasoria

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# Great things are happening in District 1! Take a look...

*Our newsletter highlights the projects and updates that have taken place in District 1 from January through December 2021.*

## A Message From Councilmember Soria

Dear Resident,

As 2021 comes to an end, I want to report on all the accomplishments thus far. As promised when I took my oath of office in 2015, I have continued to work hard to build safer and stronger neighborhoods, bring a fresh and new perspective to City Hall, be accessible to the community, and engage our youth.

This budget year we have had the opportunity to invest in our aging infrastructure by allocating millions of dollars to street maintenance, sidewalk repairs, and tree trimming. We also had great wins in parks and green space investments, prioritized in the budget are \$8 Million to renovate Quigley park, \$1.5 Million for a neighborhood park at Echo and Weldon Avenues, and \$1 Million to add landscaping, trees, and a trail to the existing open space on the Emerson Avenue Island. The state also recently awarded \$8.5 Million of Prop 68 funds for the construction of a new park at Milburn & Dakota Avenues.

This summer we also completed the Tower District Beautification with over \$1.86 Million of Olive Avenue improvements to sidewalks, reconstruction of medians, crosswalks, landscaping, new overhead lighting, and several mosaic art trashcans.

As always, feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to assist you with the wide range of city services available to you.

Again, thank you for giving us the opportunity to represent you, it is an honor and a privilege.

Sincerely,

*Esmeralda Soria*

Councilmember, District 1

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# District 1 Beautification Projects

## Tower District Beautification & Improvements

The Tower District Beautification Plan was long overdue and after 10 weeks of construction and over \$1.86 Million in investments, Olive Avenue is officially open once again! This project included improvements to sidewalks, reconstruction of medians, crosswalks, landscaping, new overhead lighting, and the installation of eight mosaic art trashcans. The Tower District had not received these types of investments in over 60 years.



### Mosaic Art Trash Cans

Four local artists were selected to provide artwork for eight mosaic art trash cans adopted and sponsored by local merchants. The eight mosaic art trash cans have been installed along Olive between Echo and Maroa.



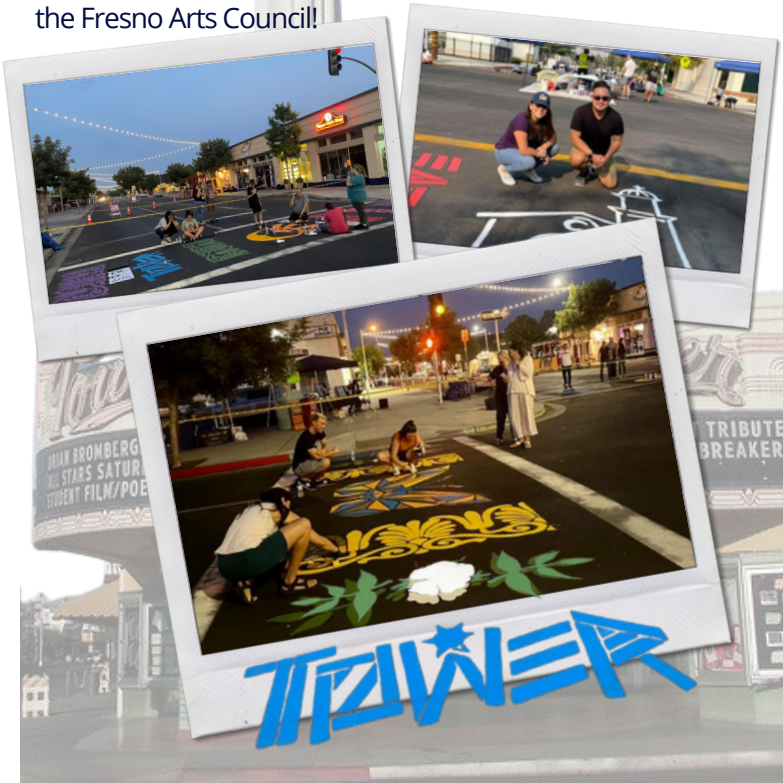
### Tower Overhead Lighting

New LED overhead lighting along Olive Avenue has been installed. We encourage you to visit our Tower District businesses both day and night!



### Crosswalk Art

The crosswalk art on Olive & Wishon was repainted this year with the support of many community volunteers and the Fresno Arts Council!



## Additional Green Space In District 1!

### Echo & Weldon Park



We have identified the need for a park at Echo & Weldon. This small parcel is heavily utilized by local residents and is located near Fresno High School and several businesses.

This year's budget allocated \$1.5 million for land acquisition, design, and construction of this park. Community meetings were held to gather input from community members. The park is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

### Emerson Median Island Beautification



This project will provide additional green space to the surrounding neighborhood.

\$1 Million of this year's budget has been allocated for this project.







# FISCAL YEAR 2021/22 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



## Public Safety

- **\$63,400** for a CSI Van
- **\$70,000** for a Public Safety Memorial
- Launch of incentive program of up to **\$20,000** for new hire police officers who purchase their home south of Shaw
- Restoration of all bike units by Fall 2021



## Fire Department

- **\$8.6 Million** for the acquisition of property on Ashlan for relocation and construction of Fire Station 12
- **\$25 Million** to construct a Fire Training Facility



## Public Transit

- Funding for the purchase of two trolleys from Tower to Downtown
- Funding to add a Network System Specialist to service Transportation Department on Wi-Fi on busses



*During the budget hearing process, City Council was able to deliberate on where funds should be allocated in the 2021/2022 budget year. I am proud to report the following Citywide and District 1 budget commitments.*

## DISTRICT 1 BEAUTIFICATION

# \$10M



- **\$500,000** for District 1 Infrastructure
- **\$400,000** for Tower District Specific Plan Update
- **\$100,000** for Tower District Litter Removal Program
- **\$625,000** for Street Maintenance: McKinley, Van Ness, Clinton, College
- **\$350,000** for Street Maintenance: Clinton, Van Ness, Shields, BNSF
- **\$1,025,000** for Street Maintenance North of Olive
- **\$4 Million** for completion of widening of Polk (Shaw/Gettysburg)
- **\$3 Million** for Street Maintenance east of Polk on Polk, Fairmont, Parkway, Acacia

## DISTRICT 1 PARK INVESTMENTS

- **\$8 Million** for construction of new park at Milburn & Dakota (awarded from Prop 68 grant)
- **\$8 Million** for reconstruction of Quigley Park
- **\$1.5 Million** for Echo & Weldon Park
- **\$1 Million** for the Emerson Median Island Beautification to add trees, landscaping and trail to existing open space



## CITY-WIDE INVESTMENTS

# \$164 Million

### NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS

- **\$2.8 Million** for tree trimming
- **\$1.5 Million** to expand façade program
- **\$400,000** for a climate action plan

### PARKS

- **\$100,000** for graffiti abatement pilot art mural program
- Implementation of a Park Ranger program

### HOUSING

- **\$5 Million** for Housing Trust Fund
- **\$100,000** for Housing Element and Mobile Home Park

### YOUTH

- **\$350,000** to establish a legislative intern program in Council offices

### AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ALLOCATION

The City of Fresno is anticipated to receive about \$164 Million in Federal American Rescue Plan funding. This funding will be utilized for investments such as rental assistance, food distribution, vaccine-related expenses, homeless services, COVID-related facility improvements, and small business assistance to name a few. This relief will help the city work towards financial stability, avoid layoffs, and provide job opportunities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

### QUIET ZONE FUNDED!

The much anticipated Quiet Zone at the Shields and Maroa and the Blackstone and McKinley railroad crossing has been completely funded. This will make it possible for the City of Fresno to petition to the Railroad Authority to designate these final crossings as Quiet Zones. The five other crossings have already been completed per safety standards. Once this area is designated as a Quiet Zone, the train horns will no longer be required anywhere in the City. This project will take approximately 14 months to complete.





## LGBTQ+ PRIDE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY



On June 11, 2021, we rose the LGBTQ+ Pride flag for the first time ever at Fresno City Hall. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend such an important and historic day for our LGBTQ+ residents and allies! The love was felt throughout our city.



## BLACKSTONE & MCKINLEY GRADE SEPARATION



The Blackstone & McKinley Grade Separation project will lower the roadway so that vehicles can safely travel underneath the railroad tracks. This will improve safety, decrease traffic congestion, and minimize greenhouse gas emissions. \$8.5 Million in funding has been approved for preliminary right of way, utility relocation, and construction of rail crossing improvements.

# D1 Highlights!

## WOMEN OF THE YEAR

This year our District 1 Women of the Year ceremony was held via zoom. We had the honor of recognizing nine phenomenal women in District 1 for the amazing work they are doing and their significant contribution to our communities.



## NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UPS!

In an effort to beautify our neighborhoods, our office sponsored several clean-up events throughout District 1. A big thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who participated in the clean-up efforts!



Central Area



Shields & West Area



Lions Park Area

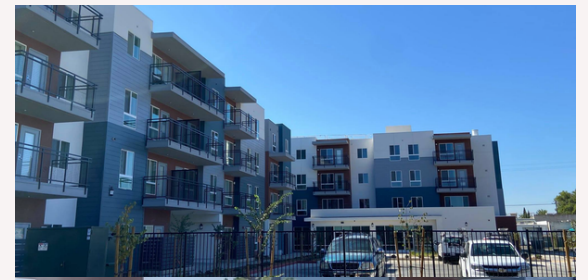


Blackstone & Shields Area



## MCKINLEY & BLACKSTONE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT & SENIOR CENTER

This year we welcomed "The Link at Blackstone" to the neighborhood. This 88 unit fully leased modern design complex located at Blackstone and McKinley offers 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units. The complex will also be home to the City of Fresno's first Neighborhood Senior Center and Clinica Sierra Vista which will provide primary medical care, dental, Pediatrics, OB/GYN and comprehensive Perinatal services.



## FREE GROCERY DISTRIBUTIONS



Steinbeck  
Elementary



Heaton  
Elementary



Homan  
Elementary



Lions Park



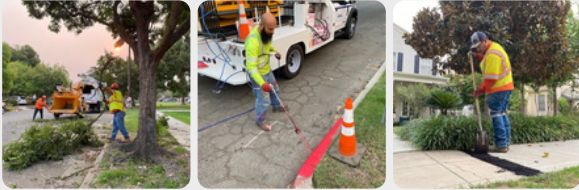
Fremont  
Elementary



# District 1 Public Works Improvements

Sidewalk Repairs, Traffic Lights, Road Repairs, Tree Trimming, Potholes, Road Safety Improvements.

## FRESNO HIGH & FRESNO CITY COLLEGE AREA



A Fresno High and Fresno City College area clean-up event was held in August that included patching potholes, repainting curbs and stripes, replacing street signs, removing graffiti, trimming trees, repairing sidewalks and street sweeping.

## TOWER DISTRICT SIDEWALK, GUTTER, AND CURB REPAIRS



## ASHLAN & BRYAN



Road improvements on Ashlan/ Bryan were completed this year.

## SHAW & GRANTLAND



Road improvements on Shaw and Grantland are near completion.

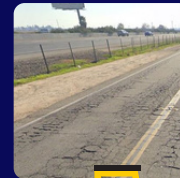
## CORNELIA REPAVE



## PARKWAY REPAVE



## FAIRMONT REPAVE



## DAKOTA/THORNE REPAVE



## CURRENT PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS \$41.6M!

- Blackstone Street Lighting (Divisadero to Shields) - **\$1,750,000**
- Olive Ave Streetscape (Yosemite to Roosevelt) - **\$1,275,638**
- Polk Ave Reconstruction (Shaw to Gettysburg) - **\$4,196,900**
- ITS Adaptive Blackstone Ave (McKinley to Divisadero) - **\$1,977,300**
- Marks Avenue AC Overlay (Ashlan to Dakota) - **\$710,100**
- SRTS MidTown School Multimodal Interconnectivity - **\$1,401,000**
- South Fresno Pedestrian Countdown Equip - **\$603,700**
- Ashlan Widening (Polk to Cornelia) - **\$3,312,500**
- Ashlan Ave ITS (Cornelia to Blackstone) - **\$2,237,800**
- TOD Tower at Van Ness & Olive - **\$348,000**
- Highway City Neighborhood Street Revitalization - **\$530,980**
- TOD Blackstone & McKinley - **\$3,588,549**
- Northbound Polk Widen (Shaw to Gettysburg) - **\$7,042,700**
- Ashlan Ave Eastbound Widen West of Polk - **\$720,000**

## TRAFFIC LIGHT ON SHIELDS & HARRISON



A new traffic light has been installed on Shields and Harrison. Previously this intersection only had a crosswalk and many students used this intersection to get to and from school. This traffic light improvement will make it safer for students and drivers in the area. We are working on getting similar amenities in other areas of the district.

## TRAFFIC SIGNALS

- Harrison and Shields Traffic Signal - **\$755,000**
- Gettysburg and Polk & Sidewalk to Inspiration Park - **\$865,279**
- Hughes and Shields Traffic Signal - **\$665,400**
- Chestnut and Weldon Traffic Signal - **\$1,533,000**

## ROAD SAFETY

- Blackstone and McKinley Grade Separation - **\$8,119,938**
- Van Ness Weldon to Elizabeth (**Class IV Bicycle Facility**)





# West of Highway 99 Investments



## INSPIRATION PARK

- National Night Out at Inspiration Park (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)
- District 1 Fall Festival at Inspiration Park (2018, 2019, 2021)
- Outdoor Movies at Inspiration Park
- **\$25,000** for Inspiration Park Boys and Girls Club youth programs (2018)
- **\$25,960** for Senior Hot Meals Program at Inspiration Park (2018)
- **\$100,000** for maintenance and operation of Inspiration Park (2018)
- EOC Summer Food Program at Inspiration Park (2018)
- **\$539,800** for Inspiration Park for play equipment replacement (2019)
- Permanent FAX Bus Route to Inspiration Park (2019)

## STREET/SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

- **(\$210,000)** Shaw Ave/SR-99 Interchange (Feasibility Study)
- Grantland - Ashlan to Gettysburg (Street Overlay)
- Fairmont/Parkway Polk to 700' southeast of Barcus (Street Paving)
- Cornelia - Shields to Dakota (Street Paving)
- Fairmont & Polk (Neighborhood Street Repaving)
- Shields Ave - East of Valentine Ave (Concrete Replacement)
- Highway City Lola-Fairmont-Barcus-State (Street Improvements)
- Polk - Northbound Shaw - Gettysburg (Street Widening)
- Ashlan - Eastbound Cornelia to Polk (Street Widening)
- **(\$353,600)** Ashlan - Cornelia - Polk (4-Lane Street Widening Design)
- Polk - West side Shaw - Gettysburg (Street Widening/Sidewalk)
- Polk - Shaw to Acacia (ADA Sidewalk)
- Gettysburg West of Polk (Sidewalk)
- Ashlan - Cornelia to Bryan (ADA Sidewalk)
- Polk - Ashlan to Willis (ADA Sidewalk)
- Polk - Ashlan to Griffith (ADA Sidewalk)
- Hayes - Dakota to Ashlan (ADA Sidewalk)
- Dakota - Polk to Gregory (ADA Sidewalk)
- Dakota - Brawley to Cornelia (ADA Sidewalk)
- Blythe - Shields to Ashlan (ADA Sidewalk)
- Cornelia - Shields to Dakota (ADA Sidewalk)
- Polk - Clinton to Dakota (ADA Sidewalk)
- Polk - Clinton to Dakota (ADA Sidewalk)
- Shields - Valentine to Cornelia (ADA Sidewalk)
- **(\$500,000)** Polk & Gettysburg (New Traffic Signal)
- Cornelia & Dakota (Traffic Signal)
- Shields & Brawley (Traffic Signal)
- Cornelia & Dakota (Traffic Signal)
- Ashlan - Cornelia to Blackstone (ITS)



## TREE TRIMMING

- **\$30,000** for Cornelia/Ashlan tree trimming



## MILBURN & DAKOTA PARK



**\$8.5 Million** from Prop 68 for construction of 4 acre land that will include a multi-use field, two multipurpose courts, an exercise area, several shaded play areas, a skate park, a decorative mural wall, and much more.



## SHAW & POLK

- **\$4,000,000** to complete widening of Polk (2021)
- **\$1,004,000** for Fresno Metro Floor Control Pipeline for Polk/Shaw
- **\$1,000,000** for Polk Avenue improvements
- **\$126,000** for engineering study

## HEALTH & SAFETY

- **\$3,500,000** for permanent Fire Station (2019)
- Free COVID Testing/Flu Shots/Grocery Distribution/Face Mask Events at Sikh Institute (2020/2021)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/BEAUTIFICATION

- **\$445,000** for three Habitat for Humanity homes (2018)
- **\$10,000** for the Highway City Neighborhood Resource Center
- Provided support for neighborhood clean-up events in (February, May, August 2021)

## SUPPORTING CENTRAL UNIFIED STUDENTS

- **\$75,000** for youth internships with the City of Fresno
- **\$1,500** for Swim Scholarships at Central High School (2018)
- **\$14,000** for expansion of Jr. Lifeguard Program (2019)
- Holiday Toy distributions for Central Unified School District students
- Free grocery distributions at Steinbeck Elementary (2020/2021)
- Janessa Ramirez Scholarships for Central Students

## YOUNG COUNCILMEMBER PROGRAM

A total of **29** students from Central High School have graduated from the District 1 Young Councilmember Program between **2017** and **2020**.

# City of Fresno Resources



Report issues in District 1, request proclamations, certificates, or to be added to our listserv to be notified about upcoming events and community meetings.

## District 1 Office

**Phone:** (559) 621-7817

**Email:** [District1@fresno.gov](mailto:District1@fresno.gov)

## Website:

<https://www.fresno.gov/citycouncil/district-1/>

For appointments, event invites, and policy questions, please contact Chief of Staff, Terry Cox at (559) 621-7810 or via email at [Terry.Cox@fresno.gov](mailto:Terry.Cox@fresno.gov).

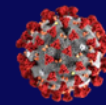


## 311 CALL CENTER

311 is available for reporting issues to all departments in the City of Fresno. The mission of the City of Fresno 311 Center is to provide a link for non-emergency communication between the citizens and the City.

### Hours of Operation:

The City of Fresno 311 Center staff is available Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 6 PM. You may report an issue 24/7 via (559) 621-CITY (2489), and the FresGo app.



## COVID-19 UPDATES

To see recent City of Fresno updates regarding COVID-19 please visit:  
<https://www.fresno.gov/coronavirus/>



These committees serve District One.

- District One Project Review Committee
- Tower District Design and Review Committee
- Tower District Specific Plan Implementation Committee
- The Youth Commission
- Young Councilmember Program
- Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Historic Preservation Committee

Call our office for vacancies or apply online at:

<https://www.fresno.gov/cityclerk/boards-commissions/board-commission-application/>

## DISTRICT 1 STAFF - WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!



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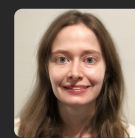
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**Renna Hickey**  
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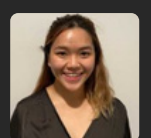
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## DISTRICT 1 PAID INTERNSHIPS

**Apply at:** <https://www.fresno.gov/citycouncil/district-1/>

**Email:** [Terry.Cox@fresno.gov](mailto:Terry.Cox@fresno.gov) (application packet must be sent in PDF)

**Mail:** Attn: Terry Cox — 2600 Fresno Street, Fresno CA 93721

Download the  
**FresGO App** to  
report issues within  
the City of Fresno.

